

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and associated apparatus for rapidly and efficiently updating, from a remote  
 location, selected software that is resident on a plurality of networked computing devices  
 that may be dissimilar. In an illustrative embodiment, in which the updated version is  
 resident at a prescribed address on an Internet web server that is accessible through the  
 backbone network, each of the computing devices is provided with an additional radio  
 10 interface adapted for Bluetooth transmission. Bluetooth messages may be sent to each of  
 the devices from a suitable command source, illustratively a handheld Bluetooth terminal.  
 After the terminal has determined, through conventional Bluetooth inquiries, which of the  
 networked computing devices contains the relevant software, the terminal issues a suitable  
 Bluetooth service request message to discover a first subset of such devices that contains  
 15 an outdated version of such software. The terminal then transmits a Bluetooth message  
 informing each device in such first subset of the web server address where the updated  
 version resides, and commands such device to download the updated version from the  
 relevant address.